



Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment Before the Finance Committee

March 1, 2010

SUPPORTING Senate Bill 1 : AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION AND CREATION OF JOBS IN CONNECTICUT

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Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. For thirty years, CFE has used law, science and education protect and preserve Connecticut's natural resources.

Connecticut Fund for the Environment **SUPPORTS Senate Bill No. 1** that would preserve and create jobs in Connecticut. We also encourage the bill to pay special attention to the promoting the most promising jobs, which we believe are in the growing "green sector" of the economy.

With unemployment at 8.5% in Connecticut, priority number one is jobs -- and in particular, good jobs that are relevant to today's economy. CT needs to capitalize on its highly skilled labor force, top research universities and connections to New York and Boston to become a leader in the clean energy and green technology economy. To do this, we believe that job creation in one or more of the following green sectors of our economy through the following policies is needed this year.

Many of these projects require little or nominal funding. Others, like transportation and clean water are necessary to leverage additional federal dollars to support green jobs in the state.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

- ✓ Increase the pool of available funding for energy efficiency projects by leveraging private, municipal and state dollars,
- ✓ increase the amount of solar power generation serving homes, businesses and municipalities in Connecticut

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in energy efficiency programs creates an average of 41 jobs for electric, 45 for natural gas and 48 for oil and respectively contributes \$5.70, \$7.00 and \$7.10 to the state Gross State Product for every dollar invested. Using new program money in a way that attracts renewable

energy technology manufacturers to the state would provide additional long-term benefits.

Transportation

- ✓ Multi-modal transit funding for rail, bus and connections between them leveraging federal dollars and providing construction and operations jobs and workforce access.

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in mass transportation creates 35 jobs and saves workers time and money. The bulk of the jobs would be construction initially, followed with continued employment for operators, mechanics, administrative staff and new jobs created by ancillary services, etc.

Clean Land and Water Investments

- ✓ Sewage treatment upgrades to leverage federal dollars, create quality jobs and support municipalities.
- ✓ Allow municipalities to create stormwater authorities to fund clean water act obligations.
- ✓ Increase sustainable harvests in state forests to create jobs and better utilize resources.
- ✓ Brownfields Restoration to clean up properties and support economic development.
- ✓ Create green chemistry institute to support businesses in creating green products.

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in upgrading water treatment infrastructure creates at least 10 new, direct, jobs. Additionally, investments in lower cost alternatives, like green-infrastructure and LID stormwater management strategies, have the potential to grow a new industry of landscape architects, stormwater engineers, and infrastructure developers here in Connecticut. Not only do both types of investment create jobs, they support local businesses and tourism by providing the clean water needed to open beaches and shellfish beds. Help retain 20,000 agricultural jobs, generate more than 300 new forestry-related jobs and create additional jobs in habitat restoration and brownfield remediation.

Workforce Development

- ✓ Increase opportunities and incentives for training for in-demand green jobs.

We ask the legislature and Governor to pass a meaningful bill this year to position CT to compete in the green economy for today and the future.

For the above reasons, we **SUPPORT Senate Bill No. 1** and ask the legislature to focus on the above policy solutions that will most effectively grow the economy and keep Connecticut a world class place to live and conduct business.